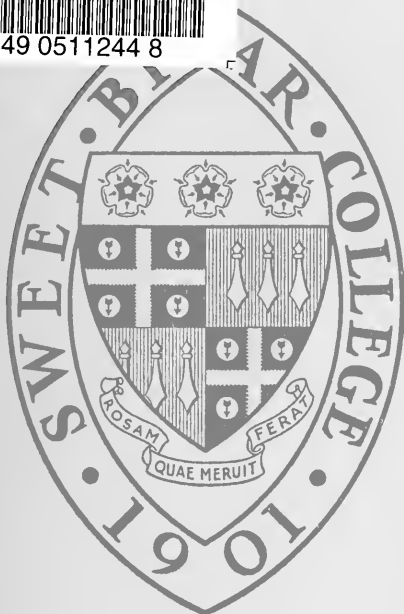


SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE



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Admission
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Sweet Briar
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Bulletin of Sweet Briar College

IN RECENT years, countless news stories and magazine articles have painted a distorted picture of admission to college, making it appear almost hopeless of attainment and leading to a great deal of unnecessary activity by all who are concerned with this important matter.

To correct, in a small measure, some of the erroneous impressions that have become so widespread, and to help prospective students approach admission to college more realistically and more easily, this leaflet has been prepared.

Although it is true that more students than ever before are applying for admission to college, it is also true that more facilities are available to accommodate them. Only a few colleges actually have many more qualified applicants than they can admit; a number of good colleges, on the other hand, are not filled to capacity. This situation represents an incalculable loss to the individuals who might have entered college—and didn't—and it represents an equally grave loss to the nation's human resources. Colleges are still looking for able applicants who will profit from and contribute to their programs.

If college is your educational goal, it is wise to begin planning your course towards it early in secondary school—in tenth or even ninth grade—to ensure the pattern of courses and quality of work necessary for admission to the college of your choice.

You may not find it easy to make this choice from the great wealth of offerings. But with the help of your guidance counselor and your parents, and after a careful study of the opportunities offered by various colleges, as well as of their admission requirements, you should be able to make a wise choice, one which is best for *you*. Keep in mind your own academic interests and capacities for learning, your future and your present goals, and try to determine what kind of college will most completely meet your needs and aspirations.

Even before you become a senior, try to narrow your choice of colleges to half a dozen or so and then, if possible, visit them and talk with a member of the admission staff. More satisfactory plans for your interview can be made if you make an appoint-

ment well in advance of your call, since most college admission offices are receiving an increasing number of visitors.

Early in your senior year, you should be able to make your decisions and file your formal application at no more than two or three colleges, to simplify your approach towards your goal.

Admission Procedures at Sweet Briar

At Sweet Briar, the Committee on Admission applies itself with great care to its special task, that of selecting the next freshman class. Headed by the Director of Admission, this committee includes six members appointed from the faculty, representing areas of the curriculum in which entrance work is recommended, and two other staff members. The committee meets monthly during the academic year to consider questions about individual programs of applicants and in the spring it is in almost continuous session until its final decisions are sent to the candidates in the middle of May.

Before the final choice of a new class is completed, each record is studied on an individual basis. All available information, such as school record and recommendations, notes of interviews and the applicant's letter, is carefully reviewed in the light of the College Board scores and in relation to similar credentials from each of the other applicants. The committee makes its decision on the record as a whole and tries to choose the applicants who seem best qualified to contribute to and gain from the Sweet Briar program.

There are no "automatic cutting off" points for school grades or College Board scores, no quotas for individual schools, geographic areas, or religious groups. The committee hopes to choose a freshman class with variety of backgrounds and personalities, yet to ensure, as far as possible, that all members have a good chance for an academically successful experience.

The most recent freshman class, for example, contains students from 32 states, the District of Columbia,

and two foreign countries who entered from 130 different schools, 61 public and 69 independent. Some of the questions considered about each applicant are: Does she have any special talents or intellectual abilities which should be developed? If so, can they be developed at Sweet Briar? Is she well balanced, as a person? Is her interest in the college's academic program sincere and seriously motivated?

Sweet Briar is seeking students of ability and promise and will give consideration to applicants who offer programs which have been focused upon some outstanding interest or which represent an exceptional school curriculum, and also to able applicants whose schools do not offer the subjects preferred by the college. Inquiries about such programs, which do not follow the usual pattern of recommended subjects, are welcomed.

Although Sweet Briar permits considerable flexibility in applicants' programs for admission, it expects a minimum of four academic subjects in each year of secondary school, providing a total of at least 16 acceptable entrance units. Four units of English are required. The following are strongly recommended: foreign language, four of one or five of two; mathematics, three; history, one; laboratory science, one; and additional elective units in any of these subjects or in approved courses in art, music, or Bible. This pattern of subjects is recommended because it has been found to provide the best preparation for our curriculum.

All applicants are required to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test and three Achievement Tests of the College Entrance Examination Board, including English. The committee prefers that the Achievement Tests be taken only in March of the senior year, unless the student is a candidate under the Early Decision Plan.

Early Decision Plan

Students who wish to apply *only* at Sweet Briar, who have strong records for the first three years of secondary school and who are recommended by their schools, may request consideration under the Early Decision Plan.

They must take the necessary College Board tests in the junior year and must file a regular application for admission and the "Request for Early Decision" before October 1 of the senior year. All credentials and other information, including applications for scholarships, should be sent to the college before October 15. Notification of the decisions of the Committee on Admission will be sent to these candidates by early December of the senior year.

Those who qualify will be accepted with the understanding that the work of the senior year will continue to be of high quality and that the health records will prove satisfactory.

Some may be advised that the Committee on Admission would like further evidence during the senior year on which to base its decision. These candidates are eligible to be considered again in the spring on an equal basis with others who did not request an early decision, and they are free to apply at other colleges in addition to Sweet Briar. They must take three Achievement Tests again in March and should repeat the Scholastic Aptitude Test at that time or earlier.

Applicants whose credentials are not approved will be notified that they have not been accepted. They may then make other plans for college as soon as possible.

Advanced Placement

Especially qualified students are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement Tests of the College Entrance Examination Board which are offered in American history, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, English composition and literature, European history, French, German, Latin, and Spanish. Achievement tests in other subjects, such as music, history of art, and social studies, will be given at Sweet Briar in the opening week of the college session. A few students are exempted from freshman English on the basis of entrance credentials. By these three methods, able students with superior training may qualify for advanced placement, absolve certain departmental and group requirements for the degree, and in some cases obtain credit at the college level.

Scholarships and Other Financial Aid

Today's rising costs in education present serious problems to many of the most promising students and their parents. College scholarship committees are also faced with greater complexities and difficulties in apportioning the available scholarship funds.

At Sweet Briar, in order to assist students in meeting the comprehensive fee of \$2,400*, the college offers scholarships and other financial aid. Two scholarships, with a maximum grant of \$1,800, are offered to entering students of outstanding ability who need this stipend. If the holders continue to qualify in succeeding years, the awards are renewable. In addition, there are at least twelve Freshman Scholarships with stipends up to \$1,300, depending on need, as well as a number of area scholarships of varying amounts which have been established by Sweet Briar alumnae clubs in the following locations:

Baltimore	Philadelphia
Charlotte	Richmond
Charlottesville	Rochester
Chicago	Southern Connecticut
Cleveland	St. Louis
Columbus, Georgia	Toledo
Houston	Washington
New York	Westchester County
Northern New Jersey	Wilmington, Delaware

Scholarships for entering students are awarded on a competitive basis and every applicant's abilities and financial need are compared with those of all others in the group. A Confidential Financial Statement from the parents or guardians of each scholarship applicant is sent to the college through the College Scholarship Service of the College Entrance Examination Board. This, together with an outline of the applicant's estimated expenditures, forms the basis of information used by the committee in determining the amount of each award. Notification of awards is sent to candidates about the middle of May, at the time of their acceptance by the Committee on Admission. In this manner, sixteen scholar-

*Effective in 1959-60.

ships ranging from \$500 to \$1,600, were given to freshmen who entered Sweet Briar in 1958.

All scholarship awards are determined by the Committee on Scholarships of which the Dean is chairman. Three members of the faculty and two other members of the administrative staff serve on this committee.

In college, each scholarship holder is expected to do the best work of which she is capable. Applications for continued assistance are reviewed annually by the committee, on the basis of current academic records and reports of financial need. After the freshman year, scholarship holders are expected to supplement their awards through summer jobs and the self-help opportunities available at Sweet Briar. As a student waitress, for example, a girl may earn up to \$400 a year. Loan funds, available chiefly to seniors, are another source of financial aid to students who need it.

THIS brief explanation of Sweet Briar's policies concerning admission and the awarding of scholarships cannot be expected to answer every question which may occur to prospective students, but perhaps it has clarified some of your ideas about these matters.

If you have questions about your own program of studies and its possible acceptance for admission to Sweet Briar, or if you wish to have other printed materials which describe the college and its curriculum, please write to the Director of Admission, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia.

BULLETIN OF
SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE
Sweet Briar, Virginia

ADMISSION
TO
SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

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